MARVEL COMICS
THE CHILD WITHIN: PART 6 OF 6
the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN
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FINAL RECKONING!
30TH ANNIVERSARY
THE FANTASTIC FOUR
1961-1991

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!™

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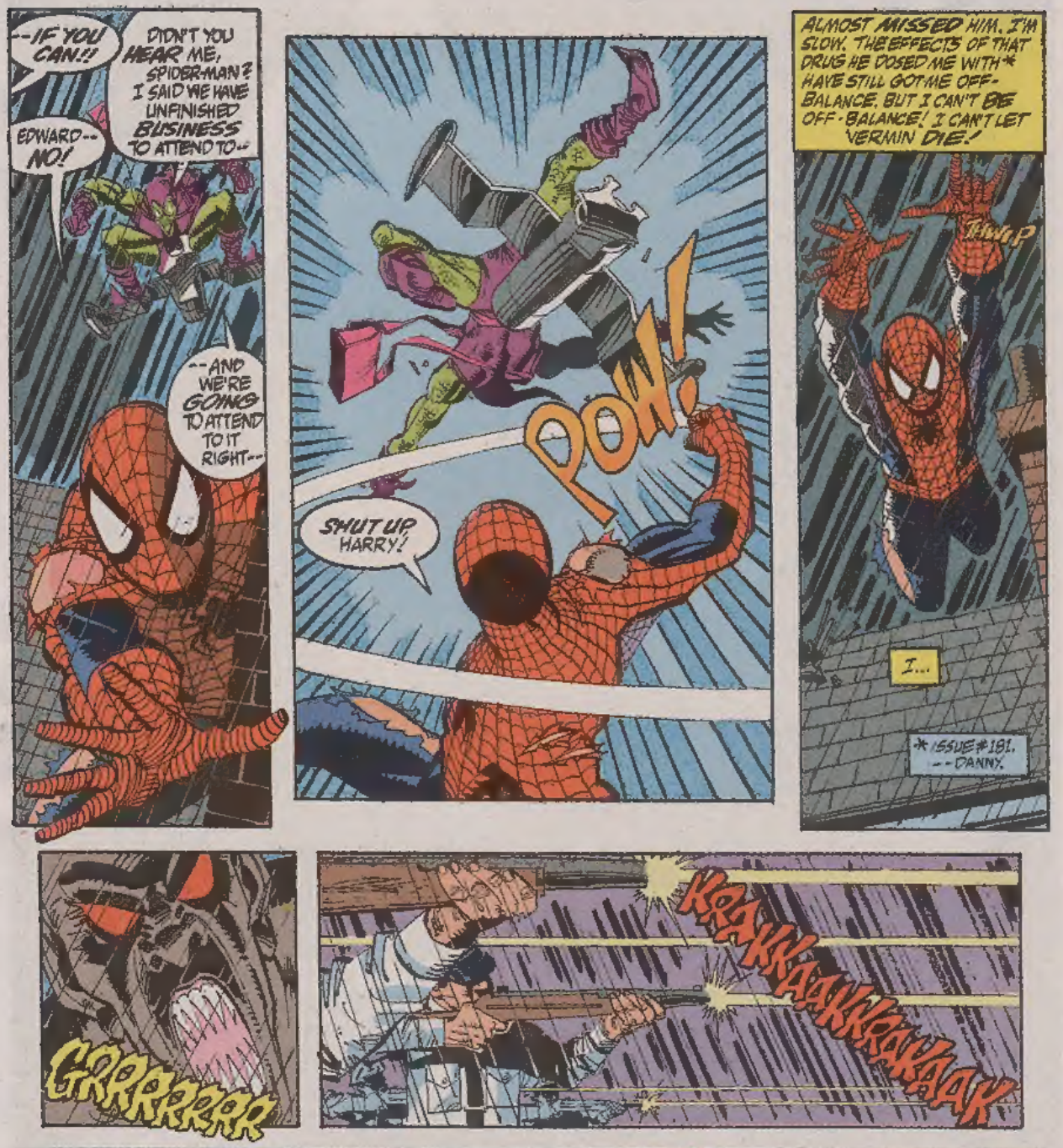
KRAAAAAAAAA
KOCCCCCCCCCCCOMMM

QUITE AN AUDIENCE YOU'VE ASSEMBLED SPIDER-MAN!
BUT I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO INTERRUPT THIS LITTLE PERFORMANCE-- BECAUSE YOU AND I HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO!
SO SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR DISGUSTING LITTLE FRIEND VERMIN--
THE CHILD WITHIN PART SIX
INTO THE DAWN!

--AND GET READY TO DIE!
EDWARD-- MOVE!
NOW!
WHOOOM!
NOOOOOO!
gotta run! gotta get away everything's crazy! nothing makes sssense!
crazycrazycrazy! all the time, crazy meh in crazy cossstumes, hit and hurt hit and hurt!
toomuch toomuch TOOMUCH!
sssspiderandmother andfatherandedward andverminandlove andhateand--
FREEZE, ANIMAL!
ONE MORE STEP AND YOU'RE ROAD KILL!
more crazy men in cossstumes! big gunss! big ssstickssss! big talk!
ssstrutting! ssshouting! ordering!
jussst like daddy!
i hate them!
I'm SSSICK OF YOU ALL!
SSSICK OF LIVING!!
SSSO GO AHEAD AND SSSTOP ME--


--IF YOU CAN!!
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME, SPIDER-MAN? I SAID WE HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO--
EDWARD-- NO!
--AND WE'RE GOING TO ATTEND TO IT RIGHT--
POW!
SHUT UP HARRY!
ALMOST MISSED HIM. I'M SLOW. THE EFFECTS OF THAT DRUG HE DOSED ME WITH* HAVE STILL GOT ME OFF-BALANCE. BUT I CAN'T BE OFF-BALANCE! I CAN'T LET VERMIN DIE!
THWIP
I...
* ISSUE #181. --DANNY.
GRRRRRR
KRAKKAAKKRAKAAK
...CAN'T!
WUPFWUPFWUPFWUPFWUP
THWIPP
NOW... WHILE HE'S CONFUSED... IF I CAN JUST MOVE FAST ENOUGH--

GOOD... HE'S SO DAZED THAT I MANAGED TO GET HIM WEBBED UP WITHOUT MUCH RESISTANCE. BUT THERE'S NO TELLING HOW LONG HE'S GOING TO STAY THIS WAY.
SHAPE I'M IN, IF HE GOES VICIOUS AGAIN, I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL BE ABLE TO HANDLE HIM.
BUT MAYBE I WON'T HAVE TO.
YES, EDWARD. IT'S ME.
EDWARD? VERMIN? DOCTOR... MY MIND... SSSO CONFUSSSED.
WHICH ONE AM I?
DOCTOR...?
YOU'RE MY EDWARD.
YOU'RE MY SON.
AND NOTHING CAN CHANGE THAT.
BUT WHAT IF DADDY--
DADDY CAN'T HURT YOU NOW.

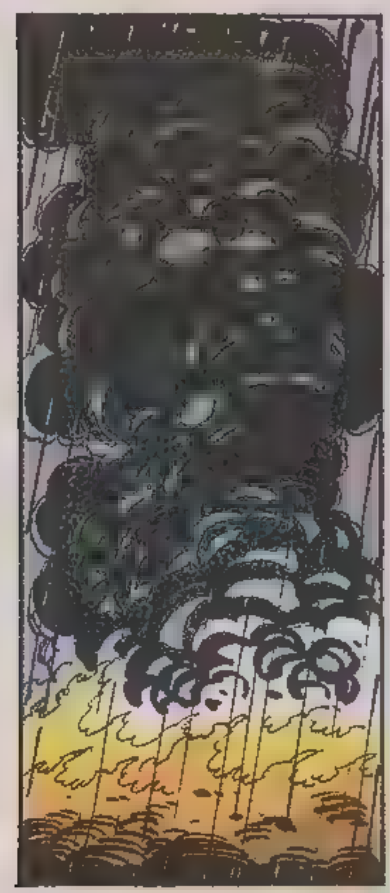
...THOSE SEDATIVES SHOULD HOLD TILL WE GET HIM BACK TO THE HOSPITAL, MRS. WHELAN.
AND THEN...?
I...WISH I COULD SAY FOR SURE...
WHATEVER HAPPENS--I WANT TO BE WITH HIM.
OF COURSE.
WELL, IT'S NOT A BONAFIDE HAPPY ENDING. BUT AT LEAST THERE'S...
...HOPE...?!
OH, NO. I GOT SO WRAPPED UP WITH EDWARD THAT I FORGOT ALL ABOUT--
--THE GOBLIN!
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU REALIZED WHO I REALLY AM!
I'M THE GREEN GOBLIN--
--NOW--
--AND FOREVER!
SPIDER-MAN!!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, DOC--I'M GETTING TIME-AND-A-HALF FOR THIS!

AH...THE FAMOUS SPIDER-MAN WIT!
BUT YOU FORGET THAT I KNOW YOU BETTER THAN THAT!
I KNOW THAT YOUR JOKES ARE LAME ATTEMPTS TO COVER YOUR INSECURITIES... YOUR PAIN!
I'VE SEEN INSIDE YOUR MIND, SPIDER-MAN-- AND IT WAS AN UGLY SIGHT!
LET'S GET THIS STRAIGHT ONCE AND FOR ALL! SPIDER-MAN'S AS MUCH A FICTION AS THE GREEN GOBLIN IS!
REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID TO ME THE OTHER NIGHT ON THE ROOF? THIS ISN'T ABOUT MASKS! THIS IS ABOUT TWO MEN--
--NAMED PETER PARKER--
--AND HARRY OSBORN!
NOT HARRY! NOT ANY MORE! IT HURTS TOO MUCH TO BE HARRY!
FZZZZAKKKT
I'M THE GOBLIN, DO YOU HEAR ME?
THE GOBLIN!

KRAKK!
FOOOOOSH!
UH-UH. YOU'RE NOT NAILING ME TWICE, OL' BUDDY!
I'M NOT YOUR "BUDDY" --AND I NEVER WAS!
FROM THE FIRST TIME I LAID EYES ON YOU IN COLLEGE, I KNEW YOU WERE EVIL! I KNEW!
I COULD SEE IT IN YOUR EYES! HOW YOU HATED ME! HOW YOU WANTED TO DESTROY EVERYONE I LOVED!
THAT'S BULL, HAR--AND YOU KNOW IT!
WE WERE... ARE... FRIENDS! BEST FRIENDS! NOTHING CAN..
LIAR!!
YOU KILLED MY FATHER!
YOU KILLED GWEN!
BAH-DAH-
BOOM
YOUR FATHER WAS KILLED BY HIS OWN INSANITY-- AND HE TOOK GWEN DOWN WITH HIM!
YOU KNOW THAT, HARRY-- AND IT'S TIME YOU FACED IT ONCE AND FOR--
NO!
NO!
YOU KILLED GWEN-- FRAMED MY FATHER FOR HER MURDER--
--AND THEN YOU MURDERED HIM!
CHAKKACHAKKACHAKKA

WELL, IT'S CLEAR THAT REASON ISN'T GONNA WORK WITH HIM! WHICH MEANS I'VE GOT TO TAKE HIM DOWN... FAST... AND THEN--
SHROOOM!
AND
THEN
WHAT?
KRAK
HOW LONG, HARRY? HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA KEEP THIS UP?
YOU USED YOUR DRUGS TO PEEL APART MY MIND... TO HURT ME... MAKE ME SUFFER THE WAY THAT YOU'VE SUFFERED!
THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED, RIGHT? WELL, YOU DID IT! YOU WON! NOW LET'S END THIS BEFORE--
NO! DON'T YOU SEE? IT WASN'T ENOUGH!
NOT ENOUGH?! BLAST IT, HARRY-- WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?!

BUDDA



I WANT YOUR LIFE!!

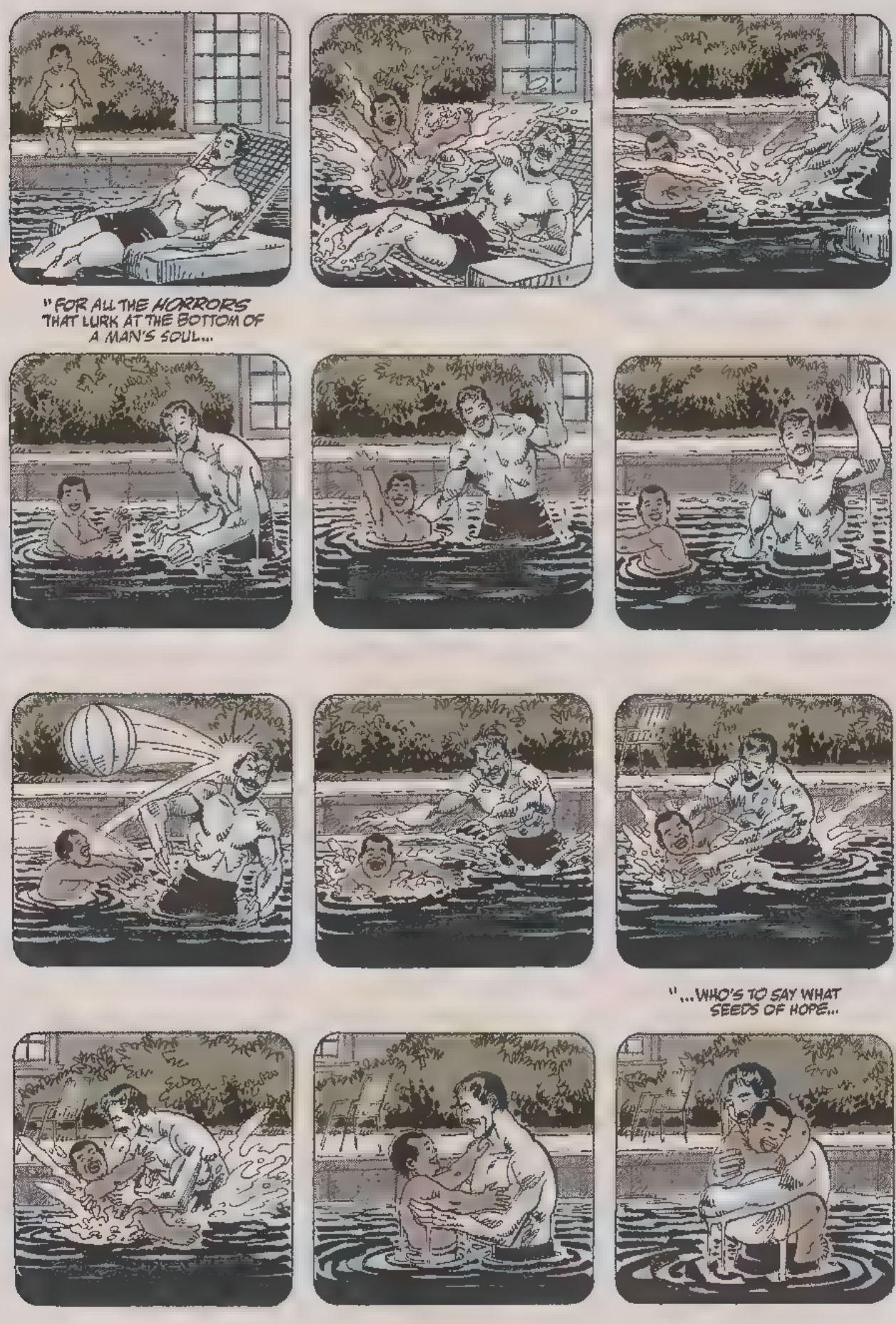
THEN TAKE IT.
WHAT?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
YOU WANT TO KILL ME? IS THAT THE ONLY WAY THIS THING IS GOING TO END?
THEN DO IT. KILL ME.
BE CAREFUL, SON. IT'S A TRICK.
Y-YES, DAD, YES, OF COURSE IT'S A TRICK! DO YOU THINK I'M STUPID, PETER? YOU THINK I'M GOING TO FALL FOR SOME STUPID TRICK?!
NO TRICKS, HARRY. I'M AS TIRED OF ALL THIS AS YOU ARE.
YOU WANT MY LIFE? IT'S YOURS.
HE THINKS YOU WON'T DO IT, SON, DON'T YOU SEE? HE THINKS YOU HAVEN'T GOT THE GUTS.
BUT YOU'RE MY BOY--AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LET ME DOWN!
YOU CAN DO IT, HARRY! YOU CAN!
I CAN--

I--
--CAN'T!!!
OH, PETER--
--PETER--
--I CAN'T.

I KNEW YOU COULON'T, HARRY!
I KNEW THAT, IF I PUSHED YOU ALL THE WAY TO THE EDGE, YOU'D PULL YOURSELF BACK!
WE'RE GONNA GET YOU SOME HELP, BUDDY. I'M SURE DOCTOR KAFKA WILL--
GET YOUR HANDS
OFF OF ME!!!
SMAK!
DON'T TOUCH ME! DON'T COME NEAR ME! J-JUST LOOKING AT YOU REMINDS ME OF EVERY-THING... ALL THE PAIN... ALL THE DEATH---
YOU TURN MY STOMACH! I HATE YOU, PETER PARKER!
-- SO WHY CAN'T I KILL YOU?!
WHY CAN'T I KILL YOU?!

I'M LEAVING NOW, PETER--AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME. NO POLICE. NO PSYCHIATRISTS. NOTHING.
BECAUSE I KNOW YOUR SECRET--AND IF YOU EVEN TRY TO TAKE ME IN--THE WHOLE WORLD WILL KNOW IT.
SO... I... I'M GOING TO GO OFF SOMEWHERE... FAR AWAY FROM YOU... FROM MY FATHER. FROM ALL OF THIS. FAR, FAR AWAY.
BUT I WON'T FORGET YOU, PETER. AND I WON'T STOP HATING YOU.
THAT'S THE JOY OF IT, YOU SEE. THAT'S THE BEAUTY OF IT. YOU'LL KNOW I'M OUT THERE... HATING... WAITING--
--AND YOU'LL KNOW THAT ONE DAY... MAYBE TOMORROW, MAYBE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW--
--THE GREEN GOBLIN--
--WILL BE BACK!

"SO I JUST STOOD THERE AND LET HIM GET AWAY. JUST LIKE I LET THAT BURGLAR GETAWAY, ALL THOSE YEARS AGO THE ONE WHO KILLED UNCLE BEN.
"BUT IT'S NOT LIKE THAT... IS IT? HARRY'S NOT SOME FACELESS CRIMINAL... HE'S MY BEST FRIEND.
"AND HE'S NOT A KILLER. IF HE PROVED ONE THING TO ME TONIGHT, THAT'S IT: FOR ALL HE'S BEEN THROUGH, FOR ALL HIS RAGE AND HATE, HE HASN'T GOT IT IN HIM TO KILL.
"MAYBE THAT'S WHY I LET HIM GO.
"MAYBE A PART OF ME BELIEVES THAT--IF HE DOES WHAT HE SAYS'... GETS SOME TIME AWAY FROM THE MEMORIES AND THE PAIN...
"...HE'LL SEE HIS WAY CLEAR AGAIN.
"CLEAR ENOUGH TO FINALLY REACH OUT...
"...AND LET ME, HELP HIM.
"AM I A FOOL FOR THINKING THAT? FOR DOING WHAT I'VE DONE?


"FOR ALL THE HORRORS THAT LURK AT THE BOTTOM OF A MAN'S SOUL...
"...WHO'S TO SAY WHAT SEEDS OF HOPE...

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes!

Who wants to win a frankly fictitious Frammistat complete with one megabyte of RAM and driver's side air bag? All you have to do is answer a question that's been plaguing me for years, namely, Why in the name of Wolverine's manicurist can't the world's greatest comic book company ever get a date right? And if that doesn't whet your candescent curiosity then poor ol' Stan has lost his tender touch!

Let me elucidate. A few months ago I wrote a Soapbox column touting the famous San Diego Comic Con which was held during the July 4th holiday, suggesting that you attend it if you could. So far so good, right? Wrong! The column was supposed to appear in the Marvel mags which went on sale in June, to give those wanting to attend the Con enough time to make their travel plans. So what happened? We cleverly managed to print the Soapbox in titles that went on sale AFTER the Con was over!

Of course, no blushin' Bullpenner will ever admit that Marvel can err, so this is to announce that it really wasn't a mistake! We were simply advertising NEXT year's San Diego Con, and doing it twelve months early!

Y'know, the reason we started awarding no-prizes to readers who discovered mistakes in our mags is that we made so many of them that our only recourse was to make a game of it! Which means it's time for a brand-new no-prize contest! I will proudly award some exclusive, frost-free no-prizes, complete with woofer and tweeter, to the Marvel maniacs who submit the best slogan describing our peculiar propensity for fantastic foul-ups! To get you started, here's an example: "Marvel, the Blundering Bastion of Bone-headed Boo-Boos!" Now, hey, don't tell me you can't come up with a better one than that! But you'll really have to search for the winning entries — we'll probably print 'em in the wrong mag!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

It's October, so it's time once again for creepies, crawlies, and things that go bump in the night. That's right — it's that time of year once again when our editor in chief **Tom DeFalco** cleans out his refrigerator!

It's also Halloween season — a time for facades, ruses, and masks. A time for deceptions, tricks, treats. Shams, scams, and hams (sorry — it's lunch time). A time to pretend to be something you're not. As our old friend Mr. Rogers might have put it, it's time to ride that little trolley into the land of make-believe.

In the world of comics, everyone has a secret identity (in fact, the comic strip character Cathy is actually Ziggy in drag). And many comics creators share similar fantasies of wanting to dress up like their four-color fantasy figures. So for this Halloween edition of the BB, we decided to ask the Marvel Comics creative people this question: If you could be anyone or anything for Halloween this year, what would you be? . . .

Peter David, of INCREDIBLE HULK fame, said "I'd like to be the person who gets to ask these stupid questions, instead of answer them." Peter asked us to mention that on Halloween, he gives out comics instead of candy. As he puts it, "I firmly believe in rotting a kid's brain instead of his teeth!"

SHIELD inker **Don Hudson** said, "I would be the Riddler, and I would have two guys accompanying me, with names written on their shirts like Chuckles and Chortles."

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN's **David Michelinie** chose a more horrific disguise. "I would be Fabian Nicieza. He writes five books a month, and that's scary!"

Roy Thomas, who's currently writing more CONAN than human beings should be allowed to read, said, "I'd like to be the owner of the Chicago Cubs so I could trade for a few good pitchers."

Michael Higgins, who's lettered so many AKIRA pages he's started wearing a kimono, said, "I'd be a member of the Grateful Dead."

Spider-Man villains are a popular choice this year. WEB OF SPIDER-MAN penciler **Alex Saviuk** said, "I'd like to be the Hobgoblin, who I happen to be drawing at the moment. I think it would be a neat visual. But considering my build, I think I would do better as the Kingpin! But I would have to shave my head!"

Writer without fear **Dan Chichester** would also like to be the Kingpin — "while there's still time!" Dan noted that the Kingpin is about to take a great fall over in the pages of his DAREDEVIL series.

Mike Mignola, of FAFHRD AND THE GRAY MOUSER fame, said "I would like to be a winged monkey from the *Wizard of Oz!*" Mike was working on his costume even as we spoke, so don't be surprised to see him flying by your window this October 31!

ALPHA FLIGHT's artist in residence **Tom Morgan** told us "I'd like to be a Florida boat bum named Travis McGee."

Mark Bagley, currently knocking them dead on both AMAZING SPIDER-MAN and NEW WARRIORS artwork, said "I want to be Doc Ock, because I need the four extra arms to keep up with my dead lines!"

Editor **Mike Rockwitz** said he would be Petrus Steele of thrash metal group Type O Negative fame.

MARVEL AGE's own **Mike Lackey** echoed Mike Rockwitz's sentiments, saying he would be the grind-core thrash group, Gwar. Not just one member of the group, but the entire group! No small thinker, that Mike Lackey!

Editor **Craig Anderson**, currently preparing to launch an all-new ADAM WARLOCK series with writer **Jim Starlin**, said he would be "Kim Basinger's bicycle seat."

Glenn Herdling, who is *No Longer Submissions Editor* (but is editing the new NOMAD series), said he would like to be "a whispering wind, so I can travel over land and sea, unobstructed, to many a foreign country. Either that, or Fred Flintstone."

Glenn's assistant, **Pat Garrahy** — who may or may not be the *New Submissions Editor* (he asked us not to say, he's waiting for an appeal) said, "I want to be a movie star like Bugs Bunny or Kermit the Frog."

The PUNISHER's pal, **Mike Baron**, said he would like to be ballet star Mikhail Baryshnikov, because "he's got just the right amount of fame. He's unlikely to be mobbed when he goes out in public, but he's well-known in cultural circles."

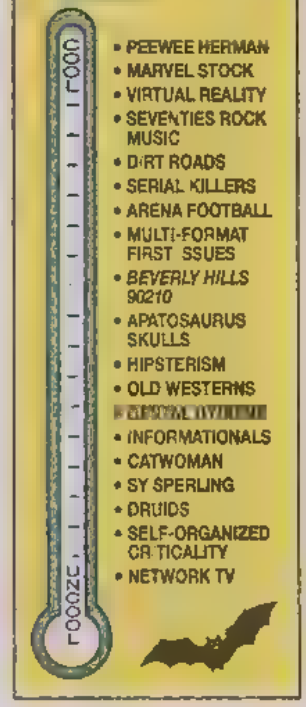
Todd McFarlane, who formerly held the record for writing, drawing, and inking the best-selling comic of all time, said "I would like to be the president/owner of my own hockey trading card company, so I can tell people what to do instead of having to listen to my editor!"

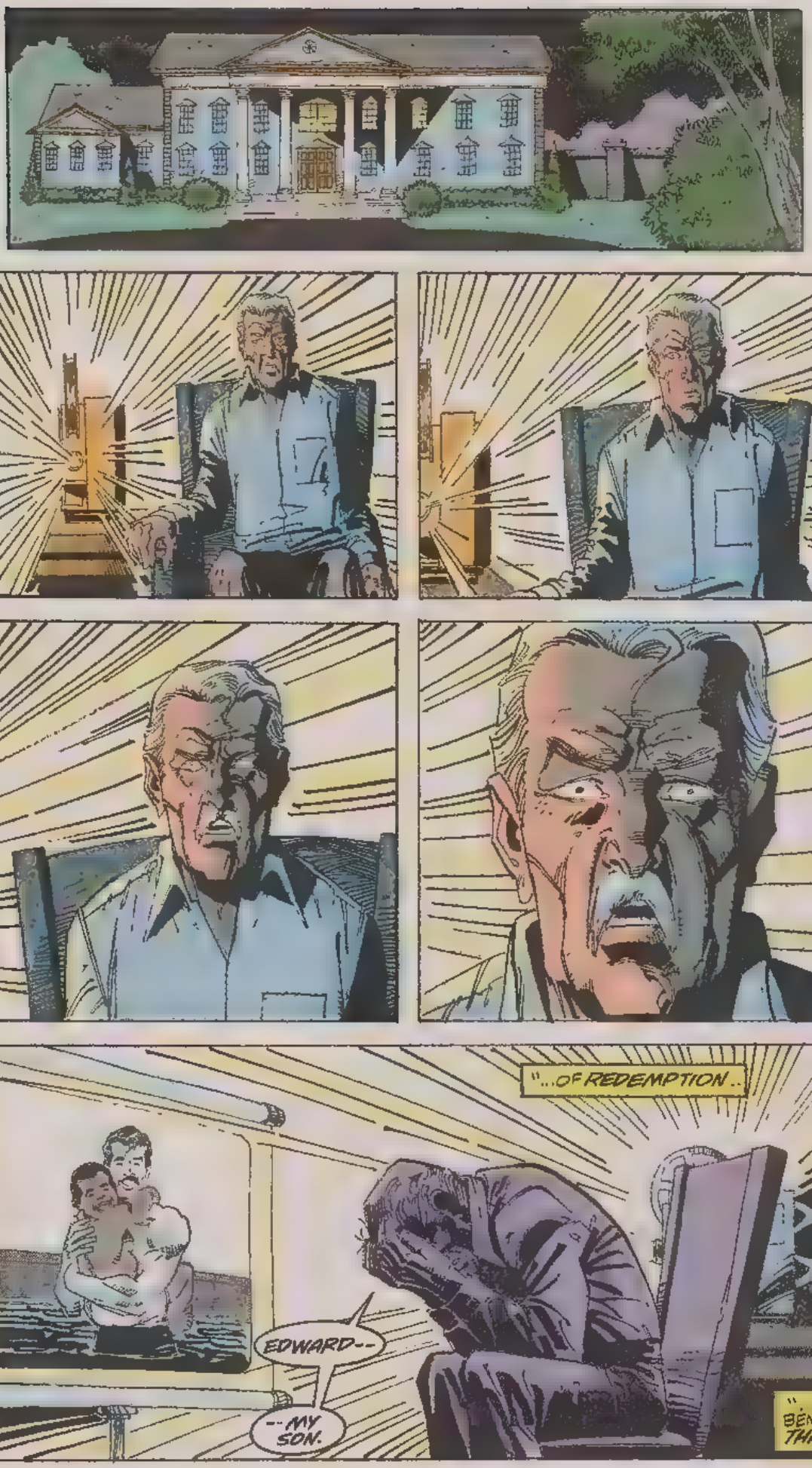
Ron Lim, perhaps best known for running the INFINITY GAUNTLET earlier this year, said "I would be Kwai Chang Caine, from the *Kung Fu* TV series, with a group of traveling monks!"

Finally, we have ALPHA FLIGHT scripter **Scott Lobdell**, who said that if he could be anyone or anything for Halloween, he would be "the God of Comics for one day." Now who among us hasn't wished for that one at least once in his life?

Onward . . . !

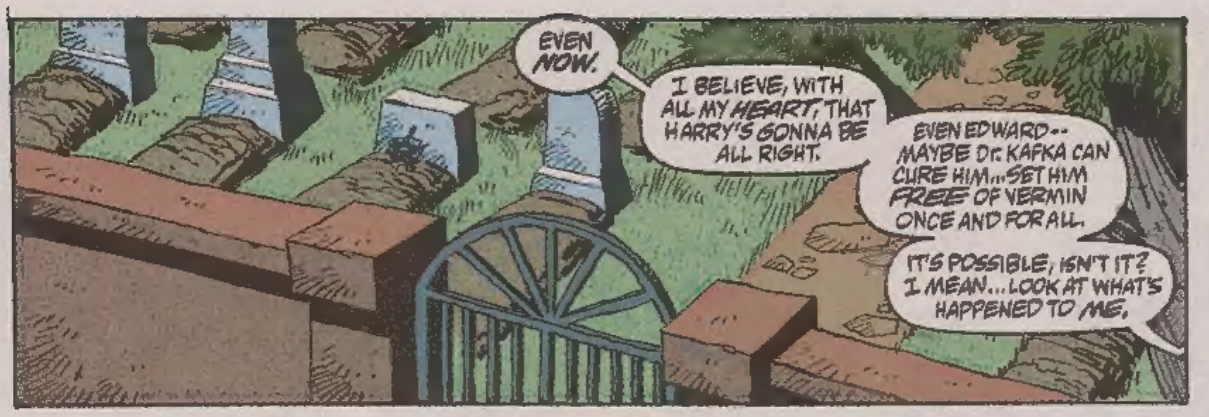
OCTOBER COOLOMETER

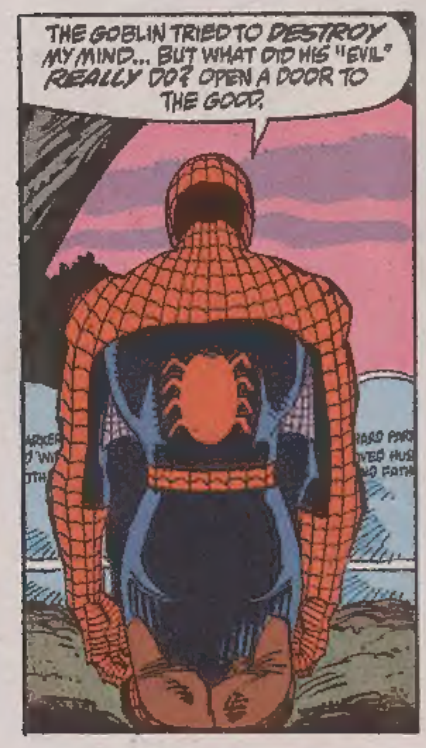


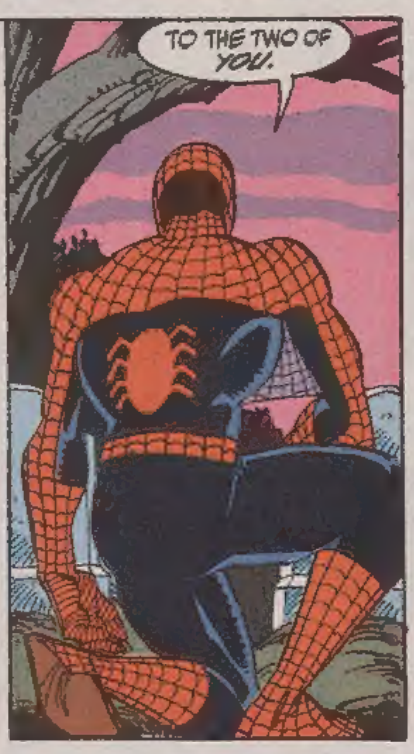

"...OF REDEMPTION..
EDWARD--
--MY SON.
"...LIE BENEATH THAT?

"THERE'S SO MUCH GOOD INSIDE US... AND SO MUCH MONSTROUS EVIL.
"I'VE SEEN MY SHARE OF BOTH OVER THE YEARS...
"...AND SOMETIMES IT SEEMS THAT EVIL ALWAYS GETS THE UPPER HAND.
...DADDY...?

"BUT, AS OFTEN AS A PART OF ME FEELS OVERWHELMED BY THE EVIL... TOO TIRED TO FIGHT IT ANYMORE...
"... ANOTHER PART OF ME-- THE BETTER PART, I THINK-- NEVER STOPS CLINGING TO THE GOOD."

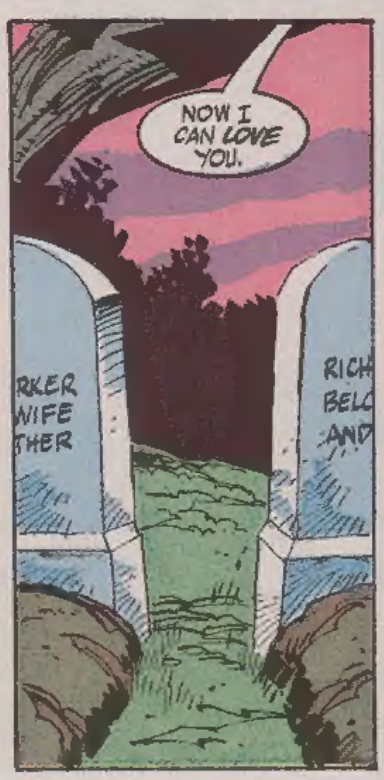

EVEN NOW.
I BELIEVE, WITH ALL MY HEART, THAT HARRY'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT.
EVEN EDWARD-- MAYBE Dr. KAFKA CAN CURE HIM...SET HIM FREE OF VERMIN ONCE AND FOR ALL.
IT'S POSSIBLE, ISN'T IT? I MEAN...LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME.


THE GOBLIN TRIED TO DESTROY MY MIND... BUT WHAT DID HIS "EVIL" REALLY DO? OPEN A DOOR TO THE GOOD.

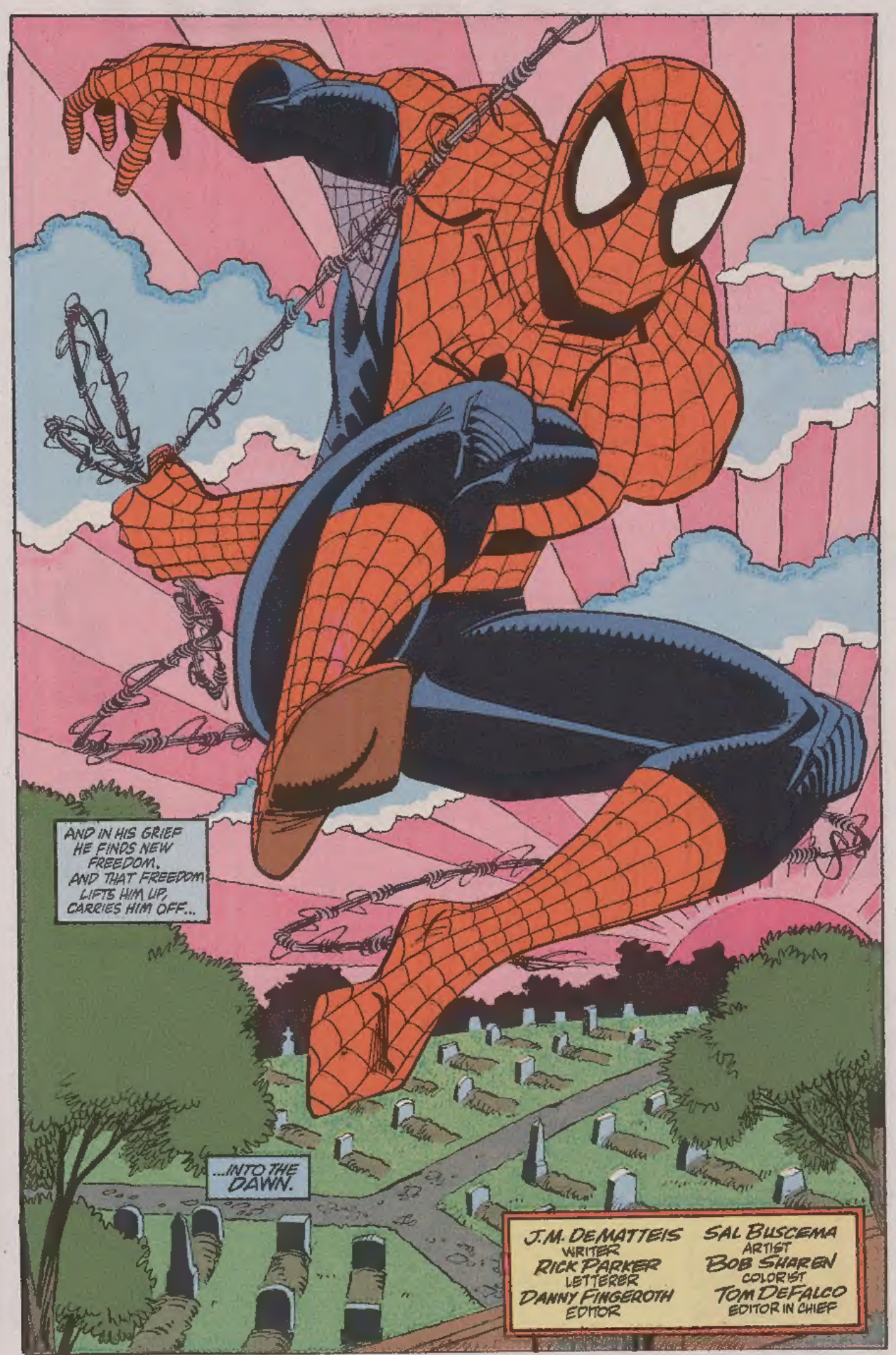

TO THE TWO OF YOU.

ALL THOSE YEARS I SHUT YOU OUT. SO AFRAID TO EVEN THINK OF YOU. FEELING SO GUILTY...SO RE-SPONSIBLE FOR YOUR DEATHS.
BUT NOW, MOTHER... FATHER--

--I CAN LET MYSELF REMEMBER.


NOW I CAN LOVE YOU.

NOW I CAN GRIEVE.
MARY PARKER
BELOVED WIFE
AND MOTHER
RICHARD PARKER
BELOVED HUSBAND
AND FATHER


AND IN HIS GRIEF HE FINDS NEW FREEDOM. AND THAT FREEDOM LIFTS HIM UP, CARRIES HIM OFF...
...INTO THE DAWN.
J.M. DeMATTEIS
WRITER
RICK PARKER
LETTERER
DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
SAL BUSCEMA
ARTIST
BOB SHAREN
COLORIST
TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF